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ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

JULY 12, 1967

William Turner

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

JUNE 28, 1967

PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, ALVIN OSER, RICHARD BURNES,
ANDREW SCIAMBRA AND WILLIAM MARTIN .

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

WILLIAM TURNER

* * * *

Reported By:
Maureen B. Thiel
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

WILLIAM TURNER, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

Q. Please state your name?

A. William Turner.

MR. GARRISON:

Q. You know William Gurvich, who used to be with my office?

A. Yes I do.

Q. Have you read his statement in the last few days, read it in the papers?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever had any contact with him while he was on my staff?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Would you mind telling the gentlemen of the Jury about those contacts? About the number of them and the nature of them?

A. I came through here around March 3, spent a day and was advised that probably the best way to hold someone in the office would be to call the Gurviches as things were pretty hectic at the time, which I did and Louis Gurvich picked me up at the motel and brought me through the press line and into Garrison's office. Mr. Garrison was not present at the time and consequently Bill Gurvich showed up and sat in Mr.

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Garrison's seat and the primary reason I had dropped by was No. 1, we have been working at the magazine on the assassination for some time and I have been personally interested in it since before the Warren Report came out and felt that the evidence was possibly subject to mis-theory interpretation , as an example, 3 shots/from the window and I asked them to consider the effect of a high velocity bullet and the confusion being caused as the result of a shot and I received a letter back that they had finished deliberation and were preparing the report, the letter was dated August 29, my letter was July 4, 1964. At any rate having a continued interest, and the magazine, and I personally, had accumulated quite a bit of material. I wanted to bring what I thought was pertinent to Mr. Garrison and to get help. So at that time I just had a rather extended conversation with Mr. Bill Gurvich and Louis Gurvich. Now we discussed, I was particularly interested in the Minute Men and did considerable investigation of them and felt that the angle of anti-communism/^{leader}in the Carribean and from the Minute Men files had been portrayed to me as a CIA buffer organization which had been in existence for some time, which had 3 people here connected with it, including Guy Banister, Hugh Ward and Maurice Gatlin and so

so I relayed this information, what I knew about the Minute Men, the possible involvement of - furnished some names and all - I got the impression from Mr. Bill Gurvich at the time that either he was only making a stab at either a passing knowledge of the facts, background facts of the case, or that he was being cozy, I didn't know which. So that was the one time that I met him and his brothers personally, now I talked to Bill Gurvich on the phone from San Francisco, 3 or 4 times, the last time being approximately 3 weeks ago. Now one of my calls was to check the article I had called the Inquest, which appears in the current issue of the magazine. The next call I called for some other reason and we got in a discussion at that time, oh, I had some information to relay to him and we got into a discussion, I was invited to be on a CBS so-called presentation of the Warren Report and I was a little bit leary of it because I had seen how the press had been slanting this thing and I asked Bill what he thought and he said well, he expected CBS would be relatively fair but that NBC was around at that time doing a hatchet job, talking to convicts in jail, having been put there by Jim Garrison and they would

obviously not have a good word to say about Jim Garrison I was rather incredulous, and I said you mean to say that some of these people are witnesses, in that case, and he said yes, the news media would be around planning to interrogate witnesses. This, to me, did not ring right. But at any rate, that was the last conversation I had with him by telephone and I did see him Monday morning when he came in and I was sitting in Mr. Alcock's office and he came storming in. He asked what I was doing there and I told him that Mr. Garrison called me and invited me down to compare notes on the extensive material I have on the Minute Men and the Military Right Wing and other aspects of the investigation which might dovetail with what he has come up with and I mentioned this to Bill and I was very shocked , I didn't know anything about it other than Gurvich was a member of the staff and he said oh, forget what goes on, what happened at Dealy Plaza, forget Oswald, all I am with concerned/is what goes on right here in Orleans Parish and the character assassination that is going on here, and you assassination bums are all alike - and went out, highly distraught - and wanted to know if anybody had any aspirin, and that is the last I saw of him.

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Q. Would you say that represented a change in attitude as compared with his previous attitude?

A. Well, as I say, I was completely shocked, I didn't know what to say. I had no inkling - he was so forceful the last time I had talked to him on the phone 3 weeks ago about the investigation of that nasty NBC and what they were doing. As I said, it was shocking to me when he came out like that.

Q. Did he mention Walter Sheridan of NBC?

A. He never did.

Q. He is in charge of NBC investigation here.

A. No.

Q. Let me ask you this? When you first met him, and you met him in March, about March 3rd.

A. Approximately the 3rd, yes sir.

Q. That was several days after the arrest of Mr. Shaw.

A. That is right.

Q. We understand that Mr. Gurvich is now saying publicly that the arrest of Clay Shaw sickened him, that Shaw never should have been arrested. Did he give you any indication at the time that that was his attitude?

A. No, absolutely not. His whole attitude, as it was projected to me, was that the assassination investigation was moving along, this was a big step therefore there would be more and he sounded rather affirmative in favor of the investigation.

Q. You might have noticed two things about the press, two things they are pounding away at, the terrible methods in my office used and that there is no case at all, I am sure you have noticed the repetition. Do you have any ideas as to this counter-attack or coalition?

A. I can only say that it is so concerted it would have to have aid from a central source, probably in Washington. I can't think of any other reason for such a lopsided unfair presentation of the facts. I spent 10-1/2 years as an FBI agent and I debated this thing with assistant counsels to the Commission, Bert Griffin, Wesley Lever and I would say even they are more open minded than the press has been on it. Its just baffling to me - in other words it seems that word is out to avoid this investigation.

Q. One other question? They hit so hard and so steadily at the theme that there is no case, there is no case, that it becomes apparent that they do not want a trial. This is self-serving but I have never asked your opinion, but what are your thoughts about the quality of the investigation we have made into the assassination?

A. I think it is of high quality. When I came through here on March 3rd I had never been to New Orleans before, all I

knew about this was what I had read in the newspapers and dispatches were breaking very fast there and I met several members of the staff, just to shake hands, from what I could sense of the operation I was very impressed, I said so in an article called The Plot Thickens, a short article in that edition. As a matter of fact, perhaps this can explain it somewhat. As I say I have been working independently and when the case broke here in New Orleans NBC Channel 3 in Sacramento, California, cabled me to find out what I thought, what was going on and trying to get some interpretation on the whole set of facts that were flying out of New Orleans and I told them that it seemed to me that Mr. Garrison was on the track of Anti-Castro Cuban elements with whom Oswald had probably been implicated, I said that I always felt very strongly about the Dean Andrews testimony, I mentioned the lawyer without the brief case who called on Saturday after the assassination, in view of the intense activity here of the Cuban Anti-Castro group in New Orleans, a key place also with Mexico City and Houston and Miami in the whole investigation, and said when they called me back their switchboard lit up when they played this tape. They called me back about a week later after the Dean Andrews thing came out, and said it was phenomenal

and people were still calling. I don't think it was phenomenal as much as was the fact that Jim Garrison probably started the same way I did, being an investigator and going through the volumes of the Warren Report, and collating them and analyzing them and as an investigator your sense of investigation is somewhat insulted by this. Now I felt the Commission was working under strain and against time due to a letter I got from Mr. Rankin, Chief Counsel, to the effect don't confuse us with facts our minds are made up, so I think that the fact that we arrived at the same general theory being completely independent type of reading of the reports and collating and analyzing and inquiries, I think to me this is very provident to the fact that the case is very solid and having been in Garrison's office and seeing the staff, I think this is it.

Q. Mr. Gurvich stated on CBS last night that the reason I chose the Central Intelligence Agency as a kind of whipping post was they couldn't reply. Did you ever have occasion to talk to him about the CIA involvement about this case?

A. Well, in one of our long distance phone conversations we did talk about the burglary over at the Schlumberger Well

G. involving Gordon Novel, David Perrie and Sergio Arcacha

Smith, and he was trying to sort out the real facts as opposed

to some versions.

Q. Did he seem to understand the Central Intelligence Agency aspect of that?

A. Yes, he did. That was the one time the CIA connection was in our conversation.

Q. At that time was he derogatory in his comments about our approach that the CIA was involved?

A. No, he was not at all.

Q. One final question? Do you feel it is a fair statement that the CIA is involved in concealing the central facts in this case?

A. I can draw no other conclusions.

MR. GARRISON:

Do you gentlemen have any other questions?

That you, Mr. Turner.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath, in the preceding matter, before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 28th day of June, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel